

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS AND
A PORTRAIT

The Book Club of California

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FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

A. Lincoln



Wyatt Eaton 1877

T. COLE. SC.

THIS fine and unusual portrait of Lincoln has an interesting history. It is from a photograph taken a few days before he made his memorable speech at Gettysburg. When he sat for this photograph he had in his hand the advance proofs of the speech Senator Everett had prepared for that occasion; a lengthy oration which when published filled two pages of the *Boston Journal*. Speaking of the proofs to a friend who accompanied him that day to the photographer, President Lincoln said:

“It was very kind in Mr. Everett to send me this. I suppose he was afraid I should say something that he wanted to say. He needn’t have been alarmed. My speech isn’t long.”

“So it is written, is it, then?” the friend asked.

“Well, no,” was the reply. “It is not exactly written. It is not finished, anyway. I have written it over, two or three times, and I shall have to give it another lick before I am satisfied. But it is short, short, short.”

This was the last time Lincoln sat for his photograph. Unfortunately, the negative plate was broken after but a few reproductions were made, and this likeness is rarely seen.

In 1877, Wyatt Eaton, a talented artist and lovable man, and a friend of Timothy Cole, made a pen and ink drawing from the photograph, which the latter then engraved on wood. Cole did what probably is one of the finest of Lincoln’s portraits under pressure, for the printers were eager for the engraving, and he worked several days and nights, putting the finishing touches on the block after it had gone to the printers. It is a fine piece of work and has a special interest in that it portrays Lincoln at the time when the thoughts of the Gettysburg address were forming in his mind.

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